

the story of the freedom that is ours and the greatness of the United States of America.”

I want to offer my heartfelt congratulations to the Boy Scouts of America on their very special 100-year milestone. Madam Speaker, the Boy Scouts of America prepare our young men for lives of leadership and selflessness. I applaud the organization for its longevity and commitment to service.

HONORING THE SWISHER FAMILY,
ARKANSAS FAMILY OF THE YEAR

HON. JOHN BOOZMAN

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 29, 2010

Mr. BOOZMAN. Madam Speaker, I would like to recognize the Swisher family, who have been named Arkansas Family of the Year by the state Knights of Columbus council.

Brian and Gail Swisher have persevered and sacrificed to allow their son Michael the opportunity to accomplish his dreams and goals, specifically gaining Eagle Scout status, despite his cerebral palsy, which he was diagnosed with at birth. The Swisher family truly deserves recognition for being the Knights of Columbus Family of the Year because of their resiliency and passion in teaching their son that no matter what physical condition he is in, he can still accomplish whatever he tries at, even though he has been confined to a wheelchair since he was a little boy.

Michael Swisher is an inspiration to all of us with his determination to overcome his ailment and complete the tasks necessary to become an Eagle Scout. Michael Swisher and the entire Swisher family are an inspiration and a heartfelt story that should be commemorated throughout the nation for their passion, commitment and desire. They truly are deserving of the recognition Arkansas Family of the Year.

COMMENDING BILL DAVIS FROM
TIFTON, GEORGIA

HON. JACK KINGSTON

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 29, 2010

Mr. KINGSTON. Madam Speaker, today I rise to commend Bill Davis from Tifton, Georgia.

For 20 years, Bill Davis owned a Sonny's barbeque franchise in Tifton, Georgia. After his 22-year license for the franchise expired in 2007, Mr. Davis met with corporate officials to discuss a new condition of their agreement. The company asked Davis to initiate the selling of beer, wine, and liquor drinks in the restaurant in order to fully comply with corporate standards. Davis refused, claiming that his restaurant was family-oriented and suggesting that the initiation of alcoholic sales could detract from the family environment. It was the first of a philosophical divergence. More would come.

On October 18, 2008, an individual from the corporate office visited the establishment. There, he found the employees wearing white T-shirts with an American flag logo and the words "I Pledge . . . I Pray" written on them.

He also noticed a Jesus souvenir sitting behind the counter. The patrons and staff of the restaurant were accustomed to the display, claiming that it allowed them to exhibit their patriotism and religious affiliation. The corporate employee, however, was less than pleased, perceiving the actions as a breach of the conditions and the typical practice of the franchise owners. An extension on license agreement was signed, and both parties agreed to extend through November 30, 2009.

This past October, Davis received a letter stating that his franchise agreement would end on December 31.

Rather than altering the atmosphere of his establishment to conform to the politically correct request of the corporation, Davis decided to "stand up for God" and continue the demonstration of his beliefs, despite the attempts of the company to silence them, so he parted ways with Sonny's. True to his word, he stuck with his convictions, and the display of American patriotism and religious faith are still a part of the restaurant's atmosphere today.

While the basic restaurant has changed, Mr. Davis is no longer a franchise owner, but a sole proprietor. The restaurant is now called "The Smokehouse Restaurant." Davis affirms that, aside from the name change, everything at the establishment will remain in place. I commend Bill Davis for "standing up for God," and I also support Sonny's right to set the rules for their franchise. They have a contractual right to set the rules, but sometimes, as businesses grow and become prosperous, they have to play it safe, conforming to political correctness and avoiding anything that could potentially raise an eyebrow. Thus, the straightjacket of public opinion and the murky center of legal conformity play an increasing role in decision-making. Some corporations, such as Graco, Domino's, and Chick-fil-A, have stood tall and should be commended.

The decision to run family friendly and patriotic operations is what makes America thrive. It seems as if Davis' decision to stick to these values will likely pay off, as many local patrons have insisted that they will continue to dine at the restaurant on a regular basis.

HONORING RUDY AND EVA LEON
AND LONNIE AND MARILYN KILGORE

HON. RAÚL M. GRIJALVA

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 29, 2010

Mr. GRIJALVA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the unyielding commitment of two families to caring for and improving the lives of foster care children in Arizona.

Rudy and Eva Leon have been licensed foster care parents for 45 years and were recently honored by former Governor Janet Napolitano for being the longest serving foster parents in the state of Arizona. They have spent the past 17 years serving the children of Devereux Arizona. The Leons have selflessly provided over 200 children with a safe and loving home environment.

Lonnie and Marilyn Kilgore began their service assisting foster care children in the Juvenile Court Foster Care Program of Arizona. Since that time, they have been licensed with Devereux for the past 16 years, during which they have cared for 47 children.

Foster care parents such as the Leons and the Kilgores recognize that all children deserve a home that will shelter them from the trauma and stress of their young lives. These families have made it their mission to provide these children with the opportunity to move on from their often difficult pasts and benefit from caring and supportive guardians. This foundation truly creates the groundwork for a meaningful, enriching life.

Organizations like Devereux have proven enormously successful at changing the lives of some of our state's most at-risk youth, helping them find stable homes and setting thousands of children on the right path in the face of tremendous difficulty.

I would like once more to thank Rudy and Eva Leon and Lonnie and Marilyn Kilgore for their hard work, deep commitment and determined sacrifice to the children of Arizona. Their long-standing dedication to the future of children and impact on their communities are an example of selfless dedication to us all.

HONORING CARL MESCHER

HON. JOHN SHIMKUS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 29, 2010

Mr. SHIMKUS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Carl Mescher of Metropolis, Illinois. Mr. Mescher will turn 90 on August 12, 2010. A reception to celebrate his birthday is being held in Metropolis on August 8, 2010.

Mr. Mescher grew up on the family farm, where he still raises cattle and crops. He served in the United States Navy from June 1940 to July 1946, where he achieved the rank of Chief Petty Officer. He was assigned to the USS Pennsylvania, which was in Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941. Mr. Mescher manned the telephone connected directly to the bridge during the attack.

On December 20, 1941, the USS Pennsylvania was sent to San Francisco for repairs of damage caused during the attack with Mr. Mescher on board. He then served as an observation plane radioman-gunner and participated in missions to retake the islands. He was awarded the Air Medal for courageous action in the Pacific theater at Makin, Kwajalein, and Eniwetok Atoll.

I am honored to thank Mr. Mescher for his service to our nation. May God bless him with continued health and happiness.

IN SUPPORT OF H.R. 2480, THE
TRUTH IN FUR LABELING ACT
OF 2009

SPEECH OF

HON. SAM FARR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 28, 2010

Mr. FARR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H.R. 2480, the Truth in Fur Labeling Act of 2009. This bill will amend the Fur Products Labeling Act of 1951 to close the loophole that allows the sale of products containing a relatively small quantity of fur or fur that is valued at \$150 or less.

The current loophole denies consumers the right to know what their garment is really